

Asbury United Methodist Church Council

Minutes of October 15, 2020 Meeting

7:30 PM via Zoom

In Attendance: Elizabeth Tawil, Dan Haas, Nancy Cody, Nancy Beers, Scott Karsner, and Pastor Jen Karsner

Open in Prayer – Nancy Beers opened us in prayer.

Regarding the BWC request that we consider becoming an anti-racist church, “Discipleship Council offers opportunity to sign, to rise, and become an anti-racist church.”

"As people of God, we lament and confess the sin of racism and we commit to work without ceasing, led by the Spirit of God, to resist and deconstruct racism wherever it exists," proclaims the Commitment to Become an Anti-racist Church issued by the Discipleship Council of the Baltimore-Washington Conference."

At our last meeting, Dan Haas suggested that we would need to explain to the congregation what we mean by an “anti-racist church” and said that he would start a Google document to capture ideas of how we should define it. He has created a Google doc (An open working document for Church Council Members to capture thoughts related to our vision of an “Anti-Racist Church.”) He had shared it with Jen and Elizabeth earlier and, after the meeting, emailed it to the rest of us.

Pastor Jen shared that she has been participating in the Monday night racism book study and that she is proud of our youth and the fact that we have 40 members participating in the study. Jen is participating in a class from Calvin Seminary - Faithful Anti-Racism in a time of Pandemic. The course description says: In this course, you'll gain practical knowledge about racism and xenophobia in America today and critically discern its impact on COVID-19. You'll explore the ways that theology and politics work to support or dismantle current racial disparities. You'll develop faithful anti-racist responses to our present moment and recognize patterns of racist practices, structures and ideologies. Nancy Cody, Mike Campbell, and Steve Patterson have agreed to take the course in November and there may be one or two others that will take the course.

Elizabeth brought up the race restrictive clause in our deed and said that she would like to see it changed. Jen brought up the point that the clause was no longer enforceable. We may address it at a later date.

Congregational Profile & Nominations

Owens Walker, SPRC chair had asked for our help in completing the Congregational Profile. We worked together to answer the questions on the form. We also approved the nominations form for charge conference.

Finance Report

Nancy reported that we have opened the church reserve account with The United Methodist Credit Union and transferred \$125,000 into that account. The church and preschool accounts are now within the FDIC insurance limit at our primary bank, BB&T.

Nancy reported that she received an email from our bank that the PPP loan forgiveness application is now available. The email stated, "Before you apply, we want to make sure you're aware of pending legislation that, if passed, could make your loan forgiveness process easier by reducing or eliminating documentation requirements. It's completely up to you if you'd like to apply now or later, but you could experience a more rigorous forgiveness process, and potentially a less favorable outcome in terms of the amount of your loan that is ultimately forgiven if you apply now." In light of that guidance, she is going to wait to file the forgiveness application.

Children's Minister Update

Pastor Jen has interviewed a candidate that she is going to recommend to SPRC. The candidate is available to start immediately.

Trustees

They are working on the sidewalk repair and haven't yet looked into the sinkhole repair. They received two estimates for replacing the air handler that serves the offices, the workroom, and the Hathorne room. The Trustees committee has decided to go with the \$37,100 estimate from Sines and Sons. Dan will talk to Skip Trimble about possible rebates and savings before he gets back to Sines. When we sign the contract we will need to provide a check for 1/3 of the contract price. Jen reported that the preschool will contribute some money towards the cost but at this point, we don't know how much.

Dan mentioned that he had added God's Garage to the YouTube streaming and that he was willing to train youth parent volunteers. Jen mentioned how grateful she was for all Dan had done to get us going with live streaming.

God's Garage

Scott mentioned the virtual confirmation retreat this weekend and the service opportunity for yardwork for some older Asbury members on October 25. He has adult volunteers lined up for the yardwork sites. The youth have another service opportunity - Project Linus Blankets – in December.

Scott will be sending a letter to parents of God's Garage youth who are not a part of Asbury or another church inviting them to donate to support the God's Garage program.

Building

Limited spaces in our building (Fellowship Hall and Hathorne Room on weekends and Asbury Room, Little Asbury Room, and Clubhouse Room any days) will be open to outside groups beginning this

month. Sherika will be calling the groups that had used our buildings to let them know of room availability and the guidelines for using the rooms and finding out if they want to use the available space.

Preschool

The preschool has decided at this point that it would be too much stress on the teachers to add afternoon classes. They will look at it again in January. They will be increasing capacity in the 4's classes from 13 students to 16 students. Because of the uncertainty regarding the elementary school hybrid plan they don't feel that there will be enough demand for clubhouse to open it now.

Christmas Services

Pastor Jen reported that since we won't be having the typical children's Christmas Eve services, we will be joining with other churches (Gloria Dei and Broadneck Baptist at this time) to have an outdoor Road to Bethlehem, with seven drive-thru stations. They will record audio ahead of time so that people can download it to their phones. The outdoor stations will be open the weekend before Christmas - Friday from 5-7, Saturday from 1-3 and 5-7, and Sunday from 5-7. It will likely be held at Gloria Dei.

Pastor Jen is also considering a small outdoor service on Christmas Eve in addition to the online service.

Charge Conference

Scheduled for next Tuesday October 20 at 7:30 – 8:30 via Zoom. The pastor will speak for 1 minute and a lay person for 2 minutes about what is going well.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for November 19th. The meeting will be cancelled if we don't need it.

Scott closed us in prayer and the meeting adjourned at 9:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Cody